

CALFED Ops Group Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: 12/12/07

Announcements

None to report.

State Water Resources Control Board Activities (Isabel Baer)

Gita Kapahai reported. On December 4, the SWRCB adopted two Delta resolutions: 1 funding for a Delta smelt facility at Byron, the other for various Delta actions involving water quality, water rights, etc. See the SWRCB website for more details. There will be a Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) workshop on January 22, the Public Notice will be out today.

Ongoing Activities Related to Ops Group

None to report.

Fishery Status

Chinook (Winter Run) – Not looking real good for this year. There were 2,488 carcasses in the survey, that is the lowest total in the last 5 years. The calculation of juveniles entering the Delta is about 1.1 million, which compares well with the count at Red Bluff Diversion Dam. That translates to an incidental take of 1,788 fish (2% of the population) at both export facilities. Concern is high, precautions will be taken including the closure of the DCC gates this weekend.

Chinook (Spring Run and Fall Run) – In general, counts are low across the board on both the Sacramento and San Joaquin systems, across all races, not just winter run. Spring run is lower than last year, but not as low as winter run. Surveys on Mill and Deer Creeks are not completed yet.

Steelhead – Nothing reported

Green Sturgeon – No 4(a) rule yet, no authorized take yet, is in Long Beach NOAA for finalization

Delta smelt – Three Fall mid-water trawls have been completed. Total catch was the second lowest on record, 2005 was the only lower total. No smelt taken at the pumps since June 2007. Continued concerns for the species. Results of the trawl will be posted on DFG's website.

Work Group Updates

DAT Update (E. Chappell) – DAT has been meeting weekly. Discussed proposed DCC closure as part of actions, recommended closure on December 8. Spring-run are starting to move out of Deer and Mill Creeks.

WOMT Update – (R. Milligan) – Has been pretty quiet lately, yesterday WOMT concurred with the recommendation to close the DCC gates. WOMT will be working out how to implement the Wanger decision. Ann Lubas-Williams has taken a new position in Reclamation. No replacement for her on OCAP yet, should be completed by the end of calendar year 2007.

Operations Status

SWP: 1850 cfs Oroville release to Feather River. Oroville storage at 1.25 MAF, storage continues to drop at this time. Some additional pulse flows at Freeport and on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis from the rains last week. Clifton Court diversions currently at 4,500 cfs. San Luis (SWP share) approx. 600 TAF. Delta outflow is over 10,000 cfs now, dropping back to about 4,000 cfs on low end in the near future. Monthly outflow standard is 4,500 cfs with 7 day running average minimum at 3,500 cfs. OMR flow now running between -7000 cfs and -4000 cfs. Turbidity at Holland Tract was 10.5, now is almost 14.0. Combined project pumping is about 8000 cfs.

CVP: Trinity River at 350 cfs, Clear Creek at 250 cfs, Keswick at 4500 cfs, Nimbus at 1135 cfs, Goodwin at 280 cfs. Jones P.P. at 5 units yesterday until December 15th, then drop to 4 units.

Water Accounting Updates

B(2) – Nothing to report.

EWA – Nothing to report.